# **Appendix A: Stormwater Management Area Assessments and Maps**

USEPA recommends that MS4s prepare a municipal assessment including water quality issues and existing land use patterns. Preparation of a municipal assessment helps the MS4 focus the SWMP to their particular community.

The County prepared an assessment of each community based on current land use maps and water quality information available from the RWQCB. The County noted general land use predominance and the location of major waterbodies for each community. Land use and water quality issues are described in general terms for each community in the following paragraphs.

# **Land Use and Water Quality Issues**

Los Osos – Baywood Park: Land use in Los Osos is composed primarily of single family residential areas. Secondary uses include public facilities, commercial retail and service, and open space/recreation. Commercial uses include auto repair, small restaurants, large and small retail stores, and self-storage. Water quality issues in Los Osos – Baywood Park include leaching from septic systems, proximity to the Morro Bay National Estuary, flooding and sumping in low-lying areas, and commercial runoff.

San Luis Obispo Urban Fringe: According to the County Land Use Element, this area is planned to provide open space preservation along with economic land uses. Land use in the urban fringe currently includes public facilities, recreational areas, agriculture, commercial retail, and residential, commercial service and industrial uses of various densities. Agricultural uses in the area include grazing and row crops. Commercial uses in the area include service stations, self-storage, auto body shops, lumber yards, raw materials supply stores, and trucking. Public facilities in the area include the San Luis Obispo County Airport which is currently regulated under a Phase I NPDES permit.

**Nipomo:** The primary land use in Nipomo is residential. Secondary land uses include public facilities, recreational facilities, and commercial service and retail. Residences in Nipomo are generally constructed on large lots, interspersed with more recent subdivisions with homes on smaller lots. Commercial uses are centered around the Highway 101 corridor and include larger stores with parking lots, professional offices, and commercial services. Recreational uses include parks and the historic Dana Adobe.

**Templeton**: Templeton is dominated by residential uses on larger rural parcels. In the commercial core between Highway 101 and the Salinas River, land uses include agriculture, industrial facilities, commercial establishments, and public facilities. Commercial uses in Templeton include retail, tourist services, and a large feed store. One of the primary industrial uses is the Templeton Stock Yard on North Main Street adjacent to the railroad. Public facilities include government buildings, community centers, schools and a hospital.

**Garden Farms:** Single family residences make up the majority of the land use in Garden Farms.

**Santa Margarita:** The primary land use in Santa Margarita is medium to low-density residential. Commercial uses line the main street, State Highway 58. The commercial uses are primarily home and auto related retail and service. A railroad right of way paralleling Highway 58 on its south side represents the sole industrial use in the community. Santa Margarita Creek borders the northwest corner of town adjacent to residential and commercial properties. Septic systems are the primary disposal system used. The local soil has a high clay content which, along with a high groundwater table, leads to poor percolation and occasional ponding.

**Cambria**: Land uses in Cambria include varying densities of residential, retail commercial, public facilities, agriculture, and open space. Commercial uses in Cambria that may have impacts to water quality include auto body shops, service stations, groceries, and restaurants. The commercial core called the "East Village" is built along Santa Rosa Creek, Cambria's primary water body. Much of the residential development is densely clustered on slopes which increases the potential for erosion issues.

**Oceano**: Land uses in Oceano include commercial, residential, industrial, public facilities, agriculture, and recreation. The airport and a large industrial area border Arroyo Grande Creek. The airport is regulated under a Phase I NPDES permit. The industrial area houses businesses related to heavy trucking, produce packing, ice manufacturing, crate assembly and storage, and railroad shipping. Agriculture is limited to the Halcyon Preserve. Commercial retail uses are also minimal. Commercial services include auto body and light manufacturing. Recreational uses include an RV park. Public facilities include schools and a fire station.

Detailed Land Use Category Maps can be found at the end of this Appendix. These maps can be viewed in higher resolution on the internet on the County of San Luis Obispo Planning and Building website at http://landarch.larc.calpoly.edu/slocounty/lue.htm.

#### **Pollutants Associated with Land Use**

### Agriculture:

The following pollutants are commonly associated with agricultural use:

- Pesticides and herbicides;
- Siltation and increased erosion due to cultivation causing removal of topsoil, clogging of waterbodies, and fish kill; and
- Fertilizers contributing nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus to runoff leading to eutrophication.

#### Recreation:

Recreational uses can result in the production of the following pollutants:

Sewage discharge;

- Oil and gas;
- Pet wastes; and
- Siltation: Recreational vehicles, hikers, and bikers can cause erosion leading to siltation of adjacent waterbodies.

#### Residential:

The pollutants below are often associated with residential uses:

- Chlorine: High levels of chlorine can be introduced into the environment when swimming pools are drained. High concentrations of chlorine are toxic to fish and wildlife:
- · Oil and gas;
- Pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; and
- · Hazardous household products.

#### Commercial:

Commercial uses have the potential to produce the following pollutants:

- Chemicals including detergents and synthetic organic chemicals;
- MTBE which volatilizes (becomes unstable) in soil and leaches into groundwater: and
- · Oil and grease.

#### Industrial:

Several pollutants impacting water quality can result from industrial uses including:

- · Heavy metals;
- Priority organics:
- · Oil and gas; and
- MTBE

#### Waterbodies and Pollutants of Concern in the Stormwater Management Area

#### Watersheds in the SWMP Coverage Area

Nine watersheds cross San Luis Obispo County as shown in the figure below. The County boundary is shown in red. The watershed names and U.S.G.S. watershed hydrologic unit numbers are: <a href="mailto:18030003">18030003</a> Middle Kern-Upper Tehachapi-Grapevine; <a href="mailto:18030011">18030011</a> Upper Los Gatos-Avenal; <a href="mailto:18030012">18030012</a> Tulare-Buena Vista Lakes; <a href="mailto:18060003">18060003</a> Carrizo Plain; <a href="mailto:18060004">18060004</a> Estrella; <a href="mailto:18060005">18060006</a> Central Coastal; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Central Coastal; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Carrizo Plain; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Central Coastal; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Carrizo Plain; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Central Coastal; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Carrizo Plain; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Carrizo Plain; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Central Coastal; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Carrizo Plain; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Central Coastal; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Carrizo Plain; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Central Coastal; <a href="mailto:18060006">18060006</a> Central Coasta

From: U.S. EPA, "Surf Your Watershed" website at http://www.epa.gov/surf.



Three of these watersheds, the Central Coastal, Salinas, and Santa Maria watersheds are located in the SWMP coverage area as shown in the figures below.

Cambria, Los Osos – Baywood Park, San Luis Obispo, and Oceano are found in the Central Coastal Watershed.



Templeton, Atascadero, Paso Robles, Garden Farms, and Santa Margarita are located in the Salinas Watershed.



Nipomo is located in the Santa Maria Watershed.



Figures from: U.S. EPA EnviroMapper for Water

Table A-1 lists the waterbodies in the SWMP watersheds and the corresponding California Hydrologic unit name and number.

Table A-1: Major Waterbodies in the SWMP Coverage Area

U.S.G.S. HYDROLOGIC UNIT AND #	CA HYDROLOGIC UNIT AND #	WATERBODIES IN THE SWMP COVERAGE AREA	SWMP COMMUNITY						
Central Coastal	Estero Bay 310	Arroyo Grande Creek	Oceano						
<u>18060006</u>		Meadow Creek (tributary to Oceano Lagoon)	Oceano						
		Los Osos Creek	Los Osos						
		Morro Bay	Los Osos						
		Perfumo Creek	San Luis Obispo Urban Fringe						
		Froom Creek	San Luis Obispo Urban Fringe						
		San Luis Obispo Creek	San Luis Obispo Urban Fringe						
		Santa Rosa Creek	Cambria						
		Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	Cambria						
Salinas 18060005	Salinas 309	Atascadero Creek Salinas River Santa Margarita Creek Yerba Buena Creek	Paso Robles and Atascadero Urban Fringe, Templeton, Garden Farms and Santa Margarita						
Santa Maria 18060005	Santa Maria 312	Nipomo Creek Mehlschau Creek Deleissiques Creek Haystack Creek	Nipomo						

Clean Water Act (CWA), Section 303(d) requires that States list waterbodies that are impaired for one or more beneficial uses. Waterbodies listed on the California 2002 CWA Section 303(d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments within the County's SWMP coverage area are shown in Table A-2 below. For a complete listing of all 303(d) listed waterbodies in San Luis Obispo County, refer to the RWQCB website at <a href="http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/TMDL/303dList.htm">http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb3/TMDL/303dList.htm</a>.

Table A-2: CWA 303(d) Listed Waterbodies in the SWMP Coverage Area

SWMP COMMUNITY	303(d) LISTED WATER BODY	POLLUTANT/STRESSOR AND POTENTIAL SOURCES
Atascadero/Paso	Atascadero Creek	Fecal Coliform
Robles urban	Atascadero Creek flows	Source Unknown
fringe, including	southwest through the City of	- Gource Grinnown
Templeton, Garden	Atascadero.	Low Dissolved Oxygen
Farms, and Santa	Alascadero.	Source Unknown
Margarita		- Source Officiowif
	Los Osos Creek	Fecal Coliforms
Los Osos/Baywood Park	Los Osos Creek is the major	Source Unknown
Faik	water body in the Los Osos	- Source Officiowif
		Law Dissalved Oxygen
	Valley. Los Osos Creek drains the Los Osos and	Low Dissolved Oxygen  Agriculture
		•
	Clark valleys and runs	<ul> <li>Pasture Grazing – Riparian and/or Upland</li> <li>Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers</li> </ul>
	westward to the southern	Natural Sources
	portion of Morro Bay.	• Natural Sources
		Nutrients
		Agriculture
		■ Irrigated Crop Production
		Agriculture – storm runoff
		Agriculture – Storm runon     Agricultural Return Flows
		- Agricultural Neturi i lows
		Sedimentation/Siltation
		Agriculture
		■ Irrigated Crop Production
		■ Range Grazing – Riparian and/or Upland
		Agriculture – storm runoff
		Hydromodification
		Channelization
		■ Dredging
		■ Habitat Modification
		Removal of Riparian Vegetation
		Streambank Modification/Destabilization
		Channel Erosion
		■ Erosion/Siltation
		Natural Sources
		■ Nonpoint Source
Los Osos/Baywood	Morro Bay Estuary	Metals
Park	The main water body of	■ Surface Mining
	concern in the Los Osos	■ Nonpoint Source
	area is the federally	■ Boat Discharges/Vessel Wastes
	designated Morro Bay	
	Estuary.	Pathogens
		■ Range Grazing – Upland
		■ Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers
		■ Septage Disposal
		■ Natural Sources
		■ Nonpoint Source
		Sedimentation/Siltation
		Agriculture
		■ Irrigated Crop Production

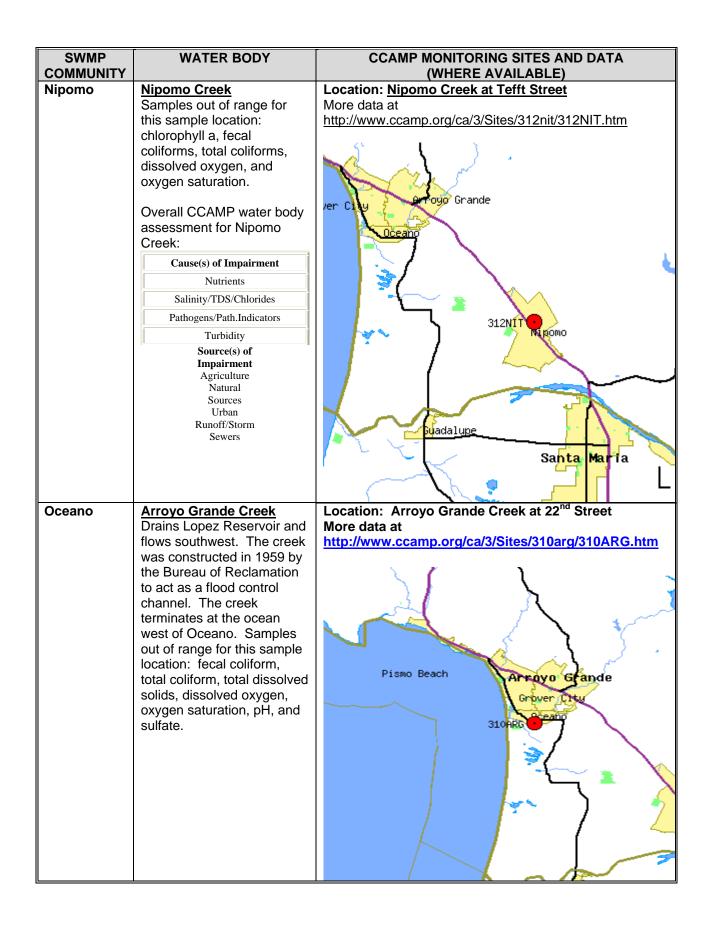
SWMP COMMUNITY	303(d) LISTED WATER BODY	POLLUTANT/STRESSOR AND POTENTIAL SOURCES
		<ul> <li>Construction/Land Development</li> <li>Resource Extraction</li> <li>Channelization</li> <li>Channel Erosion</li> </ul>
San Luis Obispo (urban fringe)	San Luis Obispo Creek (below W. Marsh Street). San Luis Obispo Creek originates as a mountain creek near Cuesta pass. The creek then flows from northeast to southeast through San Luis Obispo and enters the Pacific Ocean at Avila Beach. The creek is about 15 miles long and varies in width from 1 to 20 feet. Water levels fluctuate from 1 to 3 inches during the summer to 1 to 2 feet during non-flood winter conditions. The watershed feeding the creek incorporates 84 square miles of the coastal slope of the Santa Lucia Mountains and eleven tributaries.	<ul> <li>Municipal Point Sources</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Irrigated Crop Production</li> <li>Agriculture – storm runoff</li> </ul>
Nipomo	Nipomo Creek Nipomo Creek flows nine miles south through the community of Nipomo to its junction with the Santa Maria River. The watershed for Nipomo Creek encompasses approximately 20 square miles.	Fecal Coliform ■ Agriculture ■ Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers ■ Natural Sources
Nipomo	Santa Maria River Watershed The Santa Maria River watershed encompasses a drainage area of 1,881 square miles. The river length measures approximately 18 miles from Twitchell Reservoir to the Pacific Ocean. The river serves as a major source of groundwater for the agricultural and domestic users in the Santa Maria Valley.	Fecal Coliform  Agriculture  Pasture Grazing – Riparian and/or Upland  Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers  Natural Sources  Nitrate  Agriculture  Pasture Grazing-Riparian and/or Upland  Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers

SWMP COMMUNITY	303(d) LISTED WATER BODY	POLLUTANT/STRESSOR AND POTENTIAL SOURCES
Atascadero/Paso Robles urban fringe, including Templeton, Garden Farms, and Santa Margarita	Salinas River, upper confluence of Nacimiento River to Santa Margarita Reservoir The Salinas River is approximately 150 miles long and runs from the Santa Lucia Mountains northwest to	<ul> <li>Chloride</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Pasture Grazing – Riparian and/or Upland</li> <li>Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers</li> <li>Sodium</li> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Pasture Grazing – Riparian and/or Upland</li> </ul>
	Monterey Bay. Land uses along the Salinas River are largely agricultural.	■ Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers

The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) is the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's regionally scaled water quality monitoring and assessment program. The purpose of the program is to provide scientific information to Regional Board staff and the public to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the waters of Central California. The Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP) provides water quality monitoring data on the internet at <a href="http://www.ccamp.org">http://www.ccamp.org</a>. Table A-3 shows the location of water quality monitoring data and monitoring site locations for waterbodies within the SWMP coverage area.

Table A-3: CCAMP Monitoring Data for Waterbodies in the SWMP Coverage Area (where available)

SWMP COMMUNITY	WATER BODY	CCAMP MONITORING SITES AND DATA (WHERE AVAILABLE)
Cambria	Santa Rosa Creek Water quality in this water body is of particular concern because the creek empties into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Samples out of range for this sample location: fecal coliform, chloride, total dissolved solids, pH, sulfate, and nickel in sediment.	Location: Santa Rosa Creek at Moonstone Beach More data at http://www.ccamp.org/ca/3/Sites/310sro/310sRO.htm



SWMP WATER BODY	CCAMP MONITORING SITES AND DATA (WHERE AVAILABLE)
SWMP COMMUNITY Los Osos - Baywood  Los Osos Creek Samples out of range for this sample location: fecal coliform, total coliform, conductivity, nitrate as N, nitrate as NO3, oxygen saturation, pH, and nickel in sediment. Overall CCAMP water body assessment for Los Osos Creek:  Cause(s) of Impairment  Nutrients  Siltation  Organic Enrichment/Low Do  Habitat Alterations  Pathogens/Path.Indicators  Turbidity  Source(s) of Impairment  Agriculture – Grazing, Storm Runoff  Channel Erosion  Nonpoint Source  Irrigated Crop Production  Erosion/Siltation  Streambank Modification/Destabilization  Land Disposal  Hydromodification  Natural Sources	CCAMP MONITORING SITES AND DATA (WHERE AVAILABLE)  Location: Los Osos Creek at Turri Road More data at http://www.ccamp.org/ca/3/Sites/310syb/310SYB.htm  Cagucos  San Luis Other

SWMP COMMUNITY	WATER BODY	CCAMP MONITORING SITES AND DATA (WHERE AVAILABLE)
Los Osos- Baywood	Morro Bay Estuary Arsenic and total DDT in tissue samples were out of range for this sample location. Overall CCAMP water body assessment for Morro Bay:  Cause(s) of Impairment Pathogens/Path.Indicators Metals Siltation Flow Alteration Nutrients Source(s) of Impairment Resource Extraction Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers Agriculture Boat Discharges/Vessel Wastes Municipal Point Sources Range Grazing-Riparian And/Or Upland Irrigated Crop Production Septage Disposal	Location: Sweet Springs Marsh More data at http://www.ccamp.org/ca/3/Sites/310_23_00/310_23_00.h tm  Cayucos  San Luis Obispo

SWMP	WATER BODY	CCAMP MONITORING SITES AND DATA
	WATER BODT	
COMMUNITY		(WHERE AVAILABLE)
San Luis	Perfumo Canyon Creek	Location: Perfumo Creek at Calle Joaquin
Obispo	Samples out of range for	More data at:
Urban	this sample location: fecal	http://www.ccamp.org/ca/3/Sites/310pre/310PRE.htm
Fringe	coliform, total coliform, nitrate as N, nitrate as NO <sub>3</sub> , dissolved oxygen, oxygen saturation, and pH.	San Luis Obispo  Pismo Beach

SWMP COMMUNITY	WATER BODY	CCAMP MONITORING SITES AND DATA (WHERE AVAILABLE)
San Luis Obispo Urban Fringe	San Luis Obispo Creek Samples out of range for this sample location: fecal coliforms.  Overall CCAMP water body assessment for San Luis Obispo Creek:	Location: San Luis Obispo Creek at Cuesta Park More data at: http://www.ccamp.org/ca/3/Sites/310slc/310SLC.htm
	Cause(s) of Impairment Nutrients	
	Source(s) of Impairment	
	Confined Animal Feeding Operations (NPS)	San Luis Obispo
	Urban Runoff/Storm Sewers	
	Agriculture	
	Irrigated Crop Production	
	Intensive Animal Feeding Operations	
	Range Grazing-Upland	
	Surface Runoff	
	Municipal Point Sources	
	Agriculture-Storm Runoff	
	Range Grazing-Riparian And/Or Upland	

# **Region 3 Basin Plan Beneficial Uses Definitions and Abbreviations**

Beneficial uses for surface and ground waters are divided into the twenty standard categories listed below.

### Municipal and Domestic Supply (MUN)

Uses of water for community, military, or individual water supply systems including, but not limited to, drinking water supply.

### Agricultural Supply (AGR)

Uses of water for farming, horticulture, or ranching including, but not limited to, irrigation, stock watering, or support of vegetation for range grazing.

# Industrial Process Supply (PROC)

Uses of water for industrial activities that depend primarily on water quality (i.e., waters used for manufacturing, food processing, etc.).

### Industrial Service Supply (IND)

Uses of water for industrial activities that do not depend primarily on water quality including, but not limited to, mining, cooling water supply, hydraulic conveyance, gravel washing, fire protection, or oil well repressurization.

# Ground Water Recharge (GWR)

Uses of water for natural or artificial recharge of ground water for purposes of future extraction, maintenance of water quality, or halting of saltwater intrusion into freshwater aquifers. Ground water recharge includes recharge of surface water underflow.

### Freshwater Replenishment (FRSH)

Uses of water for natural or artificial maintenance of surface water quantity or quality (e.g., salinity) which includes a water body that supplies water to a different type of water body, such as, streams that supply reservoirs and lakes, or estuaries; or reservoirs and lakes that supply streams. This includes only immediate upstream waterbodies and not their tributaries.

### Navigation (NAV)

Uses of water for shipping, travel, or other transportation by private, military, or commercial vessels. This Board interprets NAV as, "Any stream, lake, arm of the sea, or other natural body of water that is actually navigable and that, by itself, or by its connections with other waters, for a period long enough to be of commercial value, is of sufficient capacity to float watercraft for the purposes of commerce, trade, transportation, and including pleasure; or any waters that have been declared navigable by the Congress of the United States" and/or the California State Lands Commission.

#### Hydropower Generation (POW)

Uses of water for hydropower generation.

#### Water Contact Recreation (REC-1)

Uses of water for recreational activities involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, swimming, wading, water-skiing, skin and scuba diving, surfing, white water activities, fishing, or use of natural hot springs.

#### Non-Contact Water Recreation (REC-2)

Uses of water for recreational activities involving proximity to water, but not normally involving body contact with water, where ingestion of water is reasonably possible. These uses include, but are not limited to, picnicking, sunbathing, hiking, beachcombing, camping, boating tide pool and marine life study, hunting, sightseeing, or aesthetic enjoyment in conjunction with the above activities.

# Commercial and Sport Fishing (COMM)

Uses of water for commercial or recreational collection of fish, shellfish, or other organisms including, but not limited to, uses involving organisms intended for human consumption or bait purposes.

### Aquaculture (AQUA)

Uses of water for aquaculture or mariculture operations including, but not limited to, propagation, cultivation, maintenance, or harvesting of aquatic plants and animals for human consumption or bait purposes.

#### Warm Fresh Water Habitat (WARM)

Uses of water that support warm water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates.

### Cold Fresh Water Habitat (COLD)

Uses of water that support cold water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic habitats, vegetation, fish or wildlife, including invertebrates.

### Inland Saline Water Habitat (SAL)

Uses of water that support inland saline water ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of aquatic saline habitats, vegetation, fish, or wildlife, including invertebrates. Soda Lake is a saline habitat typical of desert lakes in inland sinks.

#### Estuarine Habitat (EST)

Uses of water that support estuarine ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of estuarine habitats, vegetation, fish, shellfish, or wildlife (e.g., estuarine mammals, waterfowl, shorebirds). An estuary is generally described as a semi-enclosed body of water having a free connection with the open sea, at least part of the year and within which the seawater is diluted at least seasonally with fresh water drained from the land. Included are waterbodies which would naturally fit the definition if not controlled by tide gates or other such devices.

#### Marine Habitat (MAR)

Uses of water that support marine ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation or enhancement of marine habitats, vegetation such as kelp, fish, shellfish, or wildlife (e.g., marine mammals, shorebirds).

#### Wildlife Habitat (WILD)

Uses of water that support terrestrial ecosystems including, but not limited to, preservation and enhancement of terrestrial habitats, vegetation, wildlife (e.g., mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates), or wildlife water and food sources.

# Preservation of Biological Habitats of Special Significance (BIOL)

Uses of water that support designated areas or habitats, such as established refuges, parks, sanctuaries, ecological reserves, or Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS), where the preservation or enhancement of natural resources requires special protection.

# Rare, Threatened, or Endangered Species (RARE)

Uses of water that support habitats necessary, at least in part, for the survival and successful maintenance of plant or animal species established under state or federal law as rare, threatened, or endangered.

# Migration of Aquatic Organisms (MIGR)

Uses of water that support habitats necessary for migration or other temporary activities by aquatic organisms, such as anadromous fish.

# Spawning, Reproduction, and/or Early Development (SPWN)

Uses of water that support high quality aquatic habitats suitable for reproduction and early development of fish.

# Shellfish Harvesting (SHELL)

Uses of water that support habitats suitable for the collection of filter-feeding shellfish (e.g., clams, oysters, and mussels) for human consumption, commercial, or sport purposes. This includes waters that have in the past, or may in the future, contain significant shellfisheries.

The Beneficial Uses of the CWA 303(d) Listed Waterbodies in the SWMP coverage area are shown in the Table A-4 below.

Table A-4: Beneficial Uses of the Waterbodies in the SWMP Coverage Area, From the RWQCB Basin Plan, September 8, 1994, Inland Surface Waters

SALINAS HYDROLOGIC UNIT																					
Waterbody Names	MU N		PR O	IN D	GW R			WIL D	CO LD	WAR M	MIG R		BI OL				NA V	COM M	AQU A	-	SHE LL
Salinas R.,Nacimiento RS. Margarita Res.	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		X				Х			
Atascadero Creek	Χ	Χ			Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ			Χ		Χ				Х			
ESTERO BAY HYDROLOGIC UN	IIT																				
Santa Rosa Creek Estuary					Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Х			Х			Х
Santa Rosa Creek	Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ		Χ		Х		Х			
Morro Bay Estuary				Х		Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Х			Х	Х		Х
Los Osos Creek	Χ	Χ			Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ		Χ		Х		Х			
S.L.O.Crk. above W. Marsh St.	Χ	Χ			Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ		Χ				Х			
S.L.O.Crk. below W. Marsh St.	Χ	Χ			Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Χ				Х		Х			
Froom Creek	Χ					Χ	Χ	Χ						Χ				Х			
San Luis Obispo Creek, east fork	Χ	Χ			Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ		Χ				Х			
Prefumo Creek	Χ	Χ			Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ		Χ		Х		Х			
Arroyo Grande Creek Estuary					Х	Х	Χ	Χ	Χ		Χ	Χ	Х	Χ	Х			Х			Х
Arroyo Grande Creek, downstream	Χ	Χ		Χ	Х	Х	Χ	Χ	Χ	Х	Χ			Χ		Х		Х			
Oceano Lagoon						Χ	Χ	Χ		Х		Χ	Х	Χ				Χ			
Meadow Creek	Х	Χ			Х	Χ	Х	Χ	Х				Χ	Χ				Х			
SANTA MARIA HYDROLOGIC U	NIT	 	<u> </u>	 												<u> </u>				 	
Santa Maria River	Х	Х		Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х			Х		X		Х			

General Water Quality Issues in the SWMP Watersheds, From the RWQCB Central Coast Region 3 Watershed Management Initiative, January 2002 and Salinas River Watershed Management Action Plan, October 1999.

#### **Nitrates**

"Increasing nitrate concentrations are a growing problem in the Salinas River Basin, Los Osos Creek Basin, the Santa Maria Valley, and near Arroyo Grande. Surface water problems are less frequently evident, although bacteriological contamination of coastal waters has been a problem in Morro Bay. Eutrophication occurs in the Salinas River below Spreckels and in the lower reaches of San Luis Obispo Creek."

# **Upper Salinas River Watershed**

"The upper Salinas watershed begins in the La Panza Range, southeast of Santa Margarita Lake and extends northwestward past the confluences of the Nacimiento and San Antonio Rivers to where the river narrows near the town of Bradley. The main subwatersheds of the upper Salinas River include the drainages of the Estrella, Nacimiento and San Antonio Rivers. The upper Salinas overlies the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin and lies mostly in San Luis Obispo County. Agriculture is the

primary land use within the upper Salinas watershed. Grazing, pasturelands and dry land farming have historically been the dominant land use in the upper Salinas watershed, but vineyards and wineries are becoming increasingly economically important. The impacts of grazing and vineyard development have not been well quantified. However, it is well known that grazing activities have historically altered waterways through the trampling and destruction of the riparian corridor. Urban development is occurring in the corridor along the Salinas River and Highway 101, particularly in the communities of Santa Margarita, Atascadero, Templeton and Paso Robles. Outlying suburban areas are being subdivided into one to five acre ranchettes. The population of north San Luis Obispo County is projected to increase from approximately 74,000 in 1994 to 104,650 by 2015. The increase in impervious surface area related to development and the encroachment of buildings in floodplains has increased the amount of water in the creeks, resulting in increased erosion and risk of flooding."

"Other land uses in the upper Salinas watershed include recreational uses of the Nacimiento and San Antonio reservoirs, and military uses at Camp Roberts and Fort Hunter Liggett. Gravel and sand mining are increasing in the area. Gravel mining can have significant impacts on water."

### **Morro Bay Watershed**

"The primary water quality concerns confronting Morro Bay are sedimentation, nutrient enrichment, bacterial contamination, and heavy metals. Several related problems, including habitat loss and degradation, and excessive water diversion exacerbate these water quality concerns."

"Morro Bay is one of 28 estuaries participating in the EPA funded National Estuary Program (NEP), which provided funding to develop and implement a watershed plan to address these problems. Priority problems identified by the Morro Bay NEP include: sedimentation, bacterial concentrations, nutrient concentrations, fresh water reductions, heavy metal and toxics concentrations, and habitat loss."

"Listed below are water quality issues in the Morro Bay watershed:

- Sedimentation and erosion control: Sedimentation has resulted in the loss of 25% of the tidal capacity of the bay in the last century, and is considered by many as the most serious problem confronting the bay.
- Pathogens: Bacterial contamination in Morro Bay has increased to a point where many
  of the shellfish growing beds are no longer viable. Bacterial levels exceed standards
  for shellfish growing in half of the sampled locations in the shellfish beds, and often
  exceed county and state limits for body contact recreation. The predominant sources
  of bacteria include failing septic systems, agricultural sources, recreational boaters,
  and urban runoff.
- Nutrient Enrichment: Groundwater nitrate levels in Los Osos and Chorro Creek basins are elevated, sometimes in excess of drinking water standards. Nitrates and

- phosphates in surface water contribute to growth of nuisance algae and decreased dissolved oxygen levels in violation of Basin Plan water quality objectives. Sources include septic systems, fertilizers, urban runoff and animal waste.
- Heavy metals in sediments: Abandoned mines in the upper watershed bring sediments high in chromium, nickel and other metals into Morro Bay."

### San Luis Obispo Creek Watershed

"The San Luis Obispo Creek Watershed encompasses the City of San Luis Obispo and extends to the Pacific Ocean near Avila Beach. The water quality problems facing this watershed include discharges associated with land development, hydromodification and agricultural land practices. Beneficial uses threatened or impaired by this water quality degradation include water contact and non-contact recreation, wildlife habitat, fish habitat and fish migration."

#### Santa Maria River Watershed

"The Santa Maria River watershed is located in southern San Luis Obispo County and northern Santa Barbara County. The Santa Maria River watershed includes all areas tributary to the Cuyama River, Sisquoc River, and Santa Maria River. At 1,880 square miles (1.2 Million Acres) the Santa Maria River and its tributaries drain one of the larger coastal basins of California. Priority problems in the Santa Maria River watershed include nitrate contamination of groundwater, sedimentation, and habitat loss."

### **Mapping of Jurisdictional Areas**

The management area assessment revealed that most of the development in each community occurred within the boundaries of urban and village reserve lines (URLs and VRLs). The County General Plan and Area Plans have established URLs and VRLs for each of the regulated communities. The reserve lines represent the twenty-year planning and growth boundary for each community and represent areas of higher density within a community. Outlying area were largely agricultural or rural residential in nature. The County therefore proposes that the SWMP jurisdictional boundaries be drawn at the URL or VRL of a particular community. Boundary maps for each of the regulated communities follow.

